

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Again, let me thank my colleague from Maryland, who has continued to work with us on these regional issues. I join with him in joining our colleagues to support H.R. 3508.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3508.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER PETTY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6102) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, as the "Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6102

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER P. PETTY AND MAJOR WILLIAM F. HECKER, III POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Christopher P. Petty and Major William F. Hecker, III Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Christopher P. Petty and Major William F. Hecker, III Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6102, as amended, a bill to re-

name the post office in Vienna, Virginia, after two American heroes. Major William Hecker III and Captain Christopher Petty both gave their lives on January 5, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Captain Petty began his service to our country upon entering his college's ROTC program. He was commissioned in the Army immediately after graduation; and his grandfather, an artillery officer in World War II, pinned his own second lieutenant's bars and insignia on his grandson's chest.

Captain Petty honored both his grandfather and our country with his service and was stationed next to the Iranian border, where he coordinated the artillery for his battalion.

Major William Hecker studied engineering management at West Point and in 2000 went on to earn a master's degree in English from the University of Oregon. He returned to West Point as an assistant English professor for 3 years, and he had plans to continue teaching after his assignment in Iraq. His love of literature was second only to his love of his country.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Major Hecker knew that he wanted to be in the Army since he was in the third grade. He believed in making a difference, and he was looking forward to going to Iraq.

We owe these men and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of H.R. 6102. I ask that we continue to honor these two fallen soldiers and all of our men and women in uniform that serve this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important and appropriate that we recognize the sacrifice and service of Captain Petty and Major Hecker in this way.

I urge adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from Mrs. Hecker, Major Hecker's mother, talking about her thoughts and her son's activities in Iraq.

NOVEMBER 18, 2005.

Hon. JOHN MURTHA,  
Johnstown, PA.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MURTHA: I am the wife of a retired Army officer who served this great country of ours for twenty-eight years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam. I am also the mother of two sons, both of whom chose to serve in our Armed Forces. Our older son is a Major in the 4th Infantry Division and will be departing for a year's tour of duty in Iraq in just a little over a week. Our younger son is a 1LT in the Marine Corps currently stationed in Okinawa as a C-130 pilot. He could be detailed to Iraq as well.

I respect your service to country, as well as your right to speak your mind about the situation in Iraq. But I, too, have a right to

an opinion and to make my voice known. Although I rarely if ever write a political letter, your recent statements have moved me to do so! I believe your comments about Iraq have harmed our chances for success, and will only serve to embolden the terrorists and encourage them to continue with their violence, hoping that it will hasten our retreat. Not only that, I believe it would be immoral to abandon the fledgling Iraqi government before they are ready to provide for their own security.

I have faith in our military leaders and believe that they are taking the necessary steps to train the Iraqi forces, and provide for our eventual withdrawal. I also have faith in our executive branch that they are taking the necessary steps to help the new Iraqi government get a democratic style government in place \* \* \* and to give them at least a chance of success. Although mistakes were made in the execution of the war and its aftermath, the goal itself is worthy. And in spite of all the negativity that we are constantly bombarded with, I believe that there have been some remarkable successes!

Although my son would surely prefer to stay home with his wife and four young children, he is both a soldier and a scholar. He understands that we are in a vital long-term struggle against a dangerous ideology, and he is willing to make the necessary sacrifices to defeat it. It is a difficult struggle that will require patience and fortitude, both on and off the battlefield. If we lose our will here at home, it makes the task for our soldiers all the more difficult. I believe your comments were irresponsible and are contributing to the loss of national will. If they were made to obtain political advantages, I would find that abhorrent and unworthy of a former Marine.

Please know that our soldiers are heroes, not victims. They are making great sacrifices on our behalf. They need to be supported and appreciated until their mission is over. I suggest you reconsider your comments and the effect they have on our soldiers and their families.

Sincerely,

NANCY HECKER.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6102, to name a post office in northern Virginia in honor of Captain Christopher P. Petty and Major William F. Hecker, III, both of whom were killed in Iraq on January 5, 2006, when an explosive detonated near their Humvee in Najav, Iraq.

Both Captain Petty and Major Hecker attended high school in northern Virginia. Now we commemorate their service to America by naming the post office building at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, in their honor. There is no greater gift a person can give than his or her life to save the lives of others. I cannot imagine the grief of the parents, wives and children of these two courageous men and we honor their memory today in this way to help ensure that their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

This post office will stand as a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of Americans who serve in our armed forces overseas and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way. My thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of Captain Petty and Major Hecker.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6102, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### CURT GOWDY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5224) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 350 Uinta Drive in Green River, Wyoming, as the "Curt Gowdy Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5224

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CURT GOWDY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 350 Uinta Drive in Green River, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the "Curt Gowdy Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Curt Gowdy Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5224 would designate the Post Office building in Green River, Wyoming, as the Curt Gowdy Post Office Building. Nicknamed "The Cowboy," sports fans across the country in the 1960s and 1970s turned to hear Gowdy's commentary on baseball, football, and college basketball games. He was the number one announcer at NBC Sports during the pre-cable television era; and

he was known for his objective, laid-back style. In fact, one of his most career-defining moments came almost 46 years ago today, when he called the Ted Williams' final at-bat in the major leagues.

I urge all Members to join me in honoring the life and contributions of Curt Gowdy by supporting the passage of H.R. 5224.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. It is appropriate we recognize Curt Gowdy in this way. We know he was the voice of the Red Sox, as well as the announcer on many other sports events.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me join in the moment of remembrance of Curt Gowdy. I had a chance at Christmas-time to spend the evening with Curt and his family in Palm Beach. I have known the Gowdy family for many, many years. As some know, he was the voice of the Red Sox. My godfather, Jimmy Piersall, played for the Red Sox back in the fifties.

When the Red Sox won the World Series, I asked the White House if I could bring a few guests, one being Jimmy Piersall, the other Dom DiMaggio, both constituents from Florida, and, of course, Curt Gowdy. Curt's wife, Jerre, called me the day of the White House celebration and said Curt wasn't doing well, but he would have loved to join in the honor of greeting the Red Sox at the White House.

From a personal aside, I had many, many years to interact with Curt Gowdy. He was a phenomenal man, a humble, humble, wonderful, generous man. The Boy Scouts of America, I could name numerous charities where Mr. Gowdy went out of his way not only to lend his beautiful voice, but his integrity and his name, which was known universally.

It is just an incredible honor that you all have chosen his wonderful State of Wyoming, which was something we discussed on one of his last nights on Earth. We discussed Wyoming, fly fishing and games gone by and his struggles at that time with leukemia. His doctor happened to be there that night.

Curt never lost his enthusiasm or zest for life. Even in the days before he was to pass this godly Earth, he never lost his love of this country, his love of our Nation, his love of the pastime of baseball, and to the very end, love and devotion to his family. I salute Mr.

Gowdy and appreciate the recognition he is being provided today.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his eloquent remarks. Curt Gowdy will always be a part of my sports memories as a youth. I think this is a fitting tribute, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5224.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 471) congratulating the Professional Golfers' Association of America on its 90th anniversary and commending the members of the Professional Golfers' Association of America and the PGA Foundation for the charitable contributions they provide to the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 471

Whereas The Professional Golfers' Association of America (The PGA of America) was founded in 1916 by a group of amateur and professional golfers in New York City, led by department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker, with a mission to promote interest in the game of golf, elevate standards of the golf professional's vocation, hold meetings and tournaments for the benefit of members, assist deserving unemployed members to obtain positions, and establish a benevolent relief fund for deserving members;

Whereas during World War I The PGA of America began its tradition of serving the military by purchasing and maintaining an ambulance throughout the war for the American Red Cross and encouraging employers of members to hold open positions for its members serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas The PGA of America has continued its tradition of serving the military by partnering with the National Amputee Golf Association to offer golf programs for wounded military service members that include free golf instruction, free use of golf equipment, and free golf;

Whereas in 1954 The PGA of America created a charitable foundation, The PGA Foundation, as a public philanthropic foundation to provide resources and professional expertise to make golf accessible in the community by offering free golf programs for youth, the disabled, and the underserved;

Whereas The PGA of America and its PGA Foundation offer such programs as Play Golf America Days for youths involving free instruction, skills competition, and equipment demonstration; golf programs for inner city youths in Louisville, Kentucky, and Detroit,